

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A monopolar diathermic cutter comprising:

a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion, the tip end portion having electrically insulating properties;

an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end projecting from the tip end portion of the main body member, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;

an electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member such that the electrode faces the tip end portion of the main body member, extending in a direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member, and including a base-end surface disposed opposite to the tip end portion of the main body member; and

an electrically insulating member with which the electrode is coated in such a manner that at least a part of the base-end surface of the electrode is exposed,

wherein:

the elongated member has electrically conductive properties,

the electrode is electrically connected to the elongated member to form a single electrode member, and

~~The diathermic cutter according to claim 59,~~ wherein the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the electrode is located inward of and connected to a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Currently Amended) A monopolar diathermic cutter comprising:

a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion, the tip end portion having electrically insulating properties:

an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end projecting from the tip end portion of the main body member, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;

an electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member such that the electrode faces the tip end portion of the main body member, extending in a direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member, and including a base-end surface disposed opposite to the tip end portion of the main body member; and

an electrically insulating member with which the electrode is coated in such a manner that at least a part of the base-end surface of the electrode is exposed,

wherein:

the elongated member has electrically conductive properties,

the electrode is electrically connected to the elongated member to form a single electrode member, and

~~The diathermic cutter according to claim 59, wherein~~ the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a proximal end with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and the proximal end of the electrode at least partially projects further outwards than a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

63-71. (Cancelled)

72. (New) A monopolar diathermic cutter comprising:

a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion, the tip end portion having electrically insulating properties;

an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end projecting from the tip end portion of the main body member, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;

an electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member such that the electrode faces the tip end portion of the main body member, extending in a direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member, and including a base-end surface opposed to the tip end portion of the main body member; and

an electrically insulating member with which the electrode is coated in such a manner that at least a part of the base-end surface of the electrode is exposed,

wherein:

the elongated member has electrically conductive properties,

the electrode is electrically connected to the elongated member to form a single electrode member,

the electrode extending in the direction deviating from the central axis of the elongated member includes a side surface portion with respect to the central axis of the elongated member, and

the side surface portion of the electrode is located inward of an outermost side surface of the electrically insulating member.

73. (New) The monopolar diathermic cutter according to claim 72, wherein the electrically insulating member includes;

a tip-end portion including an outer peripheral surface, and
a cylindrical portion including the outermost side surface, the outermost side surface including the same outer diameter as that of the tip-end portion of the electrically insulating member.

74. (New) The monopolar diathermic cutter according to claim 72, wherein the side surface portion of the electrode is at least partially exposed at a side surface of the electrically insulating member.

75. (New) A monopolar diathermic cutter comprising:
a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion, the tip end portion having at least an electrically insulating portion;
an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;
an electrically conductive electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member, at least a portion of the electrode having at least one projection extending radially outward from the central axis such that all portions of the at least one projection are disposed such that they oppose the electrically insulating portion of the tip end portion of the main body member; and
an electrically insulating member for coating at least a portion of the electrode such that at least the at least one projection is exposed.

76. (New) The monopolar diathermic cutter of claim 75, wherein an outer periphery of the electrically insulating member extends further in the axial direction than the at least one projection.

77. (New) The monopolar diathermic cutter of claim 75, wherein the at least one projection comprises three or more projections.

78. (New) A diathermic cutter comprising:

a cylindrical main body member including a tip end portion;

an elongated member including a central axis and a tip end, the elongated member being movably inserted in the main body member;

an electrically conductive electrode disposed on the tip end of the elongated member, at least a portion of the electrode having three or more projections extending radially outward from the central axis; and

an electrically insulating member for coating at least a portion of the electrode such that at least the three or more projections are exposed, wherein an outer periphery of the electrically insulating member extends further in the axial direction than the three or more projections.